THE STAGE AND ITS STARS

A Few Nights of Shaksperian Characters by the Popular Tragedian, Keene.

At the Park, with Baker, Dialect Comedy Will Be the Attraction-A Brilliant Operatio and Concert Season Premised-Notes.

The most notable dramatic event of the season thus far will be the engagement of the tragedian Mr. Thomas W. Keene, at the Graud Opera-house, which begins to-morrow night for four performances. With a return to perfect health Mr. Keene's Shakspearian impersonations are characterized by a dramatic force, intelligence and artistic grace that indicate that he is doing the best work of his professional career. He needs no especial commendation to Indianapolis theater-goers, however, for he has played here often, and they recognize in him one of the best expenents of the legitimate drams of his day. In these times, when there is so much that is trivial on the stage, performances such as he gives will be unusually enjoyable. He has had the good sense, and taste as well, to surround himself by a company of thoroughly capable and well-drilled people, and the claim is made that his is the best company now playing tragedies. Among its members are Mr. George Learock, a fine actor of large experience, who was last season seen here as the star of the "Beacon lights" company, Miss Louise Pomeroy, who for several years has been a star on her own account in Shakspearlan impersonations, Mrs. Baker, an actress of fine abilities, Mr. Arthur Elliott, Mr. Eugene Moore, Adolph Jackson, Carl Ahradt and others. The repertoire selected for the engagement here is one that commends itself. To-morrow night Mr. Keene will present "Richard III," which, by many, is considered his best part. Tuesday evening he will be seen as "Hamlet." At the Wednesday matinee he will play Mark Antony, in "Julius Cæsar," and his engagement will conclude Wednesday evening with "Richelian." The costumes, armor and properties used in these plays were made for Mr. Keene in Europe, and are of the finest patern, and historically correct. His engagement is one of special interest to those who are admirers of the highest type of the dramatic art, and the attendance promises to be commensurate with the merits of the attraction. Mr. Keene has not played here for two years, but is held in high regard. There will be no ad-vance in prices for his engagement, and since the sale opened there has been a good demand

Mr. P. F. Baker, more familiarly known as "Pete" Baker, formerly of Baker & Farron, begins a week's engagement at the Park to-morrow afternoon. This announcement will be sufficient in itsef to attract the regular patrons of the house, for Baker is the most popular comedian who plays here. They will be especially interested to know that this season he has a new play, "The Emigrant," which is said to give him far better opportunities than did "Chris and Lena," and in which he is making a conspicuous success. In it he introduces new songs, specialties and other attractive features. Baker is inimitable in thimself, and he has an unusually clever company of comedians, among them Miss Lutie Miller, who is well liked here, Miss Marie Morisine, who will be remembered from last season; Miss Viva Walters, W. E. Hines, the Irish comedian, and others. "The Emigrant" will be given every afternoon and evening during the week, at the usual prices, and there is already a heavy advance sale for the opening

The new Eden Musee, with its numerous curiosities, tableaux, figures, etc., was visited by a great many people last week. This week there will be other new features, and you can see them all, afternoon and evening, for only 10

Operatic and Concert Singers. New York Murcury.

The most important event of the fashionable season will be the resumption of German grand opera at the Metropolitan, which occurs Nov. 28. On that night director Edmund C. Stanton will inaugurate what promises to be an interesting lyric term with Mozart's "Don Giovanni," by a company which will contain a majority of new and fresh voices. Mr. Stanton's list of productions contains twenty-five works by thir-teen composers, and of these Lalo's "Le Roy d'Ys" and Brull's "Coid Heart" are among the novelties. Hitherto the Metropolitan manager-ial promises have been fulfilled, and it is not unlikely that the varied operatic menu announced will be served up with all the appetizing details of handsome dresses and appropriate stage settings. English opera will also seek fashionable recognition under the banner of Clara Louise Kellogg, who has organized an unusually good company. Simultaneously Signor Campanini will begin a term of operatio costume concerts, with last season's favorites to aid him. Then there will be the Seidl, Van der Stucken, Philharmonie Symphony and Oratorio Society's concerts, besides others of lesser importance, to complete the list of coming winter night musical feasts. Dramatically, the impending season promises to be unusually brilliant, begining with the Coquelin-Hading French company at Palmer's (Wallack's) Theater two weeks hence.

Managers say that "Pote" Baker is the bestpaying star that plays in the popular-price thea-

Helen Bancroft will start for London, next month, to play a round of Shakspeare's hero-

The Australian actors are forming a protective

union in consequence of the low salaries paid in Mr. Keene is the owner of the Roman toga-so long worn by Edwin Forrest. He prizes it

Bolossy Kiralfy is preparing the costumes and

scenery for "Antione," the most gorgeous ballet yet attempted in New York.

The Pacific slope has discovered a coming stage beauty in Lora Hollis, who is starring in that region with Neil Warner.

Professor Bartholomew's equine paradox is the best of all the "hose" shows. His horses are

marvels of sagacity and training. Frank Daniels has purchased the "Rag Baby" from Hoyt & Thomas. He will alternate it with

"Little Puck" later in the season. Augustin Daly opens his New York season with "The Surprises of Divorce." It is expect-

ed that this will run all the year. Harry Sargent, who brought Modjeska to this country, has taken the Novelty Theater, Lon-

don, for his new "sassiety" star, Mrs. Churchill-McKee Rankin's new play, "The Runaway Wife," has been very successful in Chicago. It

is a version of Fred G. Maeder's play of "Wife The Johnson & Slavin minstrel party is the

prize company this season. Hugh Dougherty and other celebrities are with them, and they are doing a very fine business. Mrs. Hilda Thomas, of this city, has made a

hit in "Fashions," the new musical comedy by H. Grattan Donnelly, author of "Natural Gas."

The piece is a decided success. Ferrario, the well-known impresario, has of-

fered Tamagno, the tenor, \$150,000 for an American tour of six months, but the silver-voiced warbler wants \$200,000 and the earth.

The operatic subsidy at Stockholm, Sweden, which was withdrawn last year, has been restored on condition that the management shall pension off the aged ladies of the ballet.

Edwin Booth and Lawrence Barrett will open the new California Theater May 13. Mr. Barrett laid the corner-stone of the old house, and, with John McCullough, was its first manager. An important engagement made by Manager

Dickson, last week, is that of Mary Anderson for two nights in February. She will play "Winter's Tale," "Comedy and Tragedy" and "The Cup."

Charles H. Hoyt's new farce comedy. "A Brass Monkey," will receive its first New York production Oct. 15, at the Bijou Opera-house. The cast will include Charles Reed and Flora Walsh Hoyt.

"Captain Smith" is said to be a bigger success in London even than "Jim, the Penman." It will be given its first American production at the opening of the regular season at the Madison-quare Theater.

Miss Amelia Rives, author of "The Quick and the Dead," writes: "My next literary production will be a play. Its name is "Ethelwold," and it is based on incidents in English history prior to the reign of Henry II.

The seventh annual report of the Actors' Fund

a copy of a resolution adopted recommending the setting apart of an actors' decoration day. The trustees were instructed to act in the mat-

Treasurer Redfield, of McVicker's, Chicago, was to have had a matinee benefit at that the-ater to mark the close of his twenty years' service, but Lawrence Barrett, who had the theater for the week, declined to permit the perform-

Lester Wallack left \$60,000 in life insurance policies, the \$20,000 check derived from his benefit is in Mrs. Wallack's possession, and Mr. Theodore Moss is reported as having lately stated that Mr. Wallack's estate would foot up

A well-known society lady has written to Miss Fanny Gillette offering to play one of the parts in "Theodora" for nothing. She guarantees that when the play is presented in New York her friends will take the whole house for the opening

Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, of the St. James Theater Company, London, will visit America under the direction of Mr. Daniel Frohman, and Charles Wyndham and his company come over about January, under the management of Richard Hooley, of Chicago.

Grief is not always simulated on the stage. When Mr. Keene began his engagement in Chicago, last week, he received a dispatch, during the first performance, announcing the death of his aged mother, to whom he was very devoted. "Keppler's Fortune," which Gus Williams, the first of comedian of his class, is giving prominence this season, is regarded by him as the best play he has had. The large audiences

which manifested their approval of it at English's Opera-house during the past week are also of Mrs. Baker, who plays the Duchess of York, in "Richard III," with Mr. Keene, has been in the profession continuously for more than fifty years. When she celebrated her last anniver-

sary the members of the company presented her with a diamond ring, and it was the first diamond she ever owned. It certainly looks as though "The Old Home-stead," at the Academy, would exceed, in financial results, the success of any regular attraction that has been current in New York in years. Ever since the opening night the great play-house has been packed with people, and hundreds have left unable to get even advantageous standing room. As there are nearly 3,000 seats in the Academy beside the spacious lobbies, which will easily accommodate 500 or more "standees," a full house here means a good many

GENERAL LEW WALLACE.

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Crawfordsville Letter in St. Louis Post-Dispatch. It is generally known that the celebrated author of "Ben-Hur" has been at his home in Crawfordsville during the past summer and spring, hard at work on his new novel. It is to be a story of Constantinople, about the time of the Janizaries, and prominent among its characters is a young Greek girl of surpassing grace and beauty. It is said by those who have been permitted to know the thread of the story that in power and dramatic force it will equal the most dramatic portions of "Ben-Hur." General Wallace is the most laborious and painstaking of writers, working all day frequently, and far into the night, then frequently rejecting wholly the results of his

continued application. It has been

frequently stated that Mrs. Wallace has been of

great assistance to him in his literary work, and so far as confidence in his ability-a faith that did not lag even during the long twenty years which elapsed before "The Fair God" was finally given to the world, she has been. But it is one of his peculiarities that he neither seeks nor desires assistance from any one. Plan and plot must be evolved from his own brain and every detail elaborated in his own mental work-shop, over the entrance of which, figura-tively speaking, are the words, "No admittance; keep out." Therefore he is entitled, individually, to the full measure of the success he has achieved, and cannot be called upon to divide the honors with anyone. During the season of 1886-87 he lectured extensively upon the Turks, whom he admires greatly as a people, in almost all the Northern States and Canada, giving occasionally, on Sunday afternoons, readings in churches from "Ben-Hur." He regards lecturing the hardest work he ever did-and he has done a great deal in many fields-and confesses that he has neither liking nor natural fitness for the rostrum. His personal popularity, however, was greatly increased, and in several cities, notably Boston, he was wined and dined and accorded other honors which Americans ordinarily reserve for foreign celebrities. But all this bas brought with it the drawback which usually hampers success. He has been besieged and

persecuted by beggars and business offers which, with all that he had in the way of experience, are still capable of astonishing him. Among the most common, perhaps, are invitations to lecture gratis for the benefit of some church encombered with the traditional church debt. One aspiring board of trustees tendered him a pastorate recently, which was declined, of course, partly because the distinguished author is not gifted in the direction of pulpit oratory, and partly because he is not even a lay member

of any church. Besides annoyances of this sort, he is continually besieged with requests for autographs, photographs and inundated with romantic incidents, thrilling personal narratives and experiences which his admirers vainly imagine he can use in his future work, as if all authors, great and little, have not always on hand more mate-

rial than they can utilize. His residence in Crawfordsville is a plain, brown farm-house, with two stories, with wide verandas, and is hidden from view by overhanging trees, in front of which is a broad lawn sloping down to the street. Behind the house is a grove of beeches, and under their shadows Gen. Wallace may be seen about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, walking to and fro with long swinging strides, taking an hour's constitutional, after being all day at his desk. There are other trees whose boughs almost touch the windows of the dining-room, swaying nearly to the ground; and it is here of a summer evening that he loves to receive his friends, entertaining them with conversation as delightful as any-

thing that he has written.

The interior of the house is comparatively plain; the floors are covered with fine mattings over which are spread thick Turkish rugs; the walls are hung with drapery of Turkish stuffs and there are heavily embroidered scarfs and table covers, inlaid tables, and other bric-abrac here and there, suggestive of his sojourn in

Over the drawing-room mantel is the magnificent picture presented him by the Sultan-a Turkish princess, a girl of thirteen with a creamy complexion, languid, oriental eyes and dusky hair, dressed in the native costume-yellow satin trousers, jacket of velvet with a loose vest of soft muslin. She sits cross-legged on a tiger skin, one cheek resting on the right hand, the other dimpled and with its taper fingers stretched upon the head of the tiger-a most striking and artistic contrast. The picture was in the Royal Gallery, and the General, being an artist as well as an author, asked to borrow it that he might make a copy of it. Several days after this a file of soldiers marched to the American legation bringing the picture as a present from his royal

friend. Among other interesting souvenirs are the written agreement relating to the walking match which Charles Dickens arranged during his last visit to Boston, in his own hand-writing, which was given Mrs. Wallace by Mrs. Field, and perhaps literally the last fetter broken from the wrist of a slave. This was a young mulatto woman who ran away from her master near Baltimore, and came to General Wallace's head-quarters, and he had the chains removed by a locksmith. It hangs under a tattered battle flag in the libary and constitutes a very significant object lesson.

On the library mantel there is also a beautiful picture, a study in oil, of "Thraipa" as he is described in one of the opening chapters of "The Fair God." It was painted by a German artist who came to the United States and went West for studies of the American Indian. He read and was charmed with the Mexican romance, painted the picture and forwarded it to the author through his publishers. The phenomenal success of "Ben-Hur" continues. It was translated into French, Italian, Swedish and German, a Spanish translation is now in progress, and Mrs. Wallace received recently a letter from the head of some Eastern institution for the blind, asking her to intercede with the publishers, who had refused to let the edition be

published with raised letters. The General received some time ago specimens of a beautiful German edition of the novel which has just been published in Leipsic. It is printed on thick, white paper, in clear, black type, with a portrait, autograph and biographical sketch of the author. The artistic cover, upon which is the meeting of the Magi in blue and gold, is a striking contrast to the inartistic

and unworthy American editions. The study in which most of the novel was written is upstairs, a large, well-lighted, airy room with an eastern and southern exposure. The floor is stained a dark-red, and is bare except the center, which is covered with a rug. of America has just been issued in printed form.

The table stands on the rug—a table, not a desk pullman Sleeping and Chair Car priving a detailed account of the standing of the organization, and containing among other things width. It is covered with heaps of paper ar-

ranged with the greatest order and neatness, which is a peculiar characteristic of the Gen-

On one corner of the table stands a magnifi-cent majolica vase which came from Florence, while reference books, dictionaries, pens and ink are placed within convenient reach. Near the blotting-pad is a huge shell, a grim reminder of his military exploits, of the stirring incidents of the war in which he took so prominent a part. and which he lives to relate this day, "fighting his battles over again," like the true soldier that he is. On the day of my call, while talking with Mrs. Wallace, I heard the sound of a violin. He had gone when we had invaded his quarters; a bright fire was burning in the grate, a portrait of his friend, the Sultan, upon the mantel, seemed to regard us with forbidding gaze, and the open music-book in one corner of the table gave a

clew to the identity of the player.

Is it Emerson who holds that versatility is a proof of genius? If this be true, then General Wallace's claims to such distinction are well grounded, for he was a lawyer, a soldier, a politician, a diplomate, a painter, a musician, and an

He has been particularly fortunate in his marriage. His wife was Susan Elston, a woman of exquisite grace of manner, of high literary taste, and of lovely character. She is berself a writer of great ability, some charming letters published in the Independent having been col-lected under the title of "The Storied Sea."

Last winter she wrote a prose version of Samuel Rogers's "Ginevra," which was profusely illustrated by her husband. She is also a contributor to many of the leading newspapers and magazines. She has been an invaluable assistant to her husband, believing in him and encouraging him during that trying period, his literary apprenticeship. She is a woman of medium height, rather slender, with gray eyes, regular features and a fair complexion; her hair, which was once a beautiful glossy brown, is now turning gray. She prides nerself upon her faultless housekeeping. It will be remembered that the earlier editions of "Ben-Hur" were dedicated "to the wife of my youth."

It was supposed that the General was still mourning the death of the wife from whom he had been bereaved early in life. He received so many letters of condolence and inquiry that the dedication in the later editions was amended to read: "To the wife of my youth, who still

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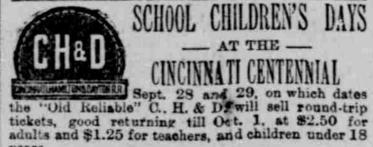
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